



Missouri National Parks Passport Challenge Announced

Visitors challenged to visit all six national parks in Missouri by end of 2017

ST. LOUIS (August 27, 2016) – In commemoration of the National Park Service’s 100th anniversary – which was celebrated on August 25 – today, the superintendents of Missouri’s six national parks announced a statewide initiative that encourages park-goers to “Find Your Park” and explore the Show-Me State.

The Missouri National Parks Passport Challenge kicks off today, and challenges the public to visit every national park in Missouri by December 31, 2017. Those who do so are eligible for rewards, including the Grand Slam Grand Prize.

“As we enter the next 100 years of the National Park Service, we want to inspire visitors to explore the national parks near us,” says Mike Ward, Superintendent, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial. “From the gorgeous landscapes of Ozark National Scenic Riverways in southeastern Missouri to the site of the first major Civil War battle west of the Mississippi at Wilson’s Creek, from the family home of Harry S Truman to the birthplace and childhood home of George Washington Carver, from the sprawling former plantation that was home to Ulysses S. Grant to two of Downtown St. Louis’ most iconic landmarks... our state’s natural and historic treasures are well worth visiting.”

CHALLENGE DETAILS: Pick up a free *Show Me National Parks: A Passport for Missouri* booklet at any of Missouri’s six national parks. Each park has a stamping station located in its visitor center. (Be sure to check the park’s hours of operation before visiting.) Stamp your Passport on that park’s page. After collecting stamps from your first three parks, have your Passport verified and signed at the park visitor center to receive your first prize: a Passport Challenge water bottle. After collecting stamps from all six parks, have ranger verify and sign your Passport to receive your second prize: a Passport Challenge drawstring backpack. Prizes can be redeemed at any of the Missouri national park visitor centers.

Finally, make sure to register your Passport at www.MONationalParks.com/enter using the unique code on the back of your booklet to be entered to win the Grand Slam Grand Prize: four tickets to a 2018 season Kansas City or St. Louis home baseball game, plus a one-night hotel stay. The Grand Prize winner will be announced by Monday, January 8, 2018.

The six national parks in Missouri are:

- **Jefferson National Expansion Memorial**, St. Louis: This memorial includes the Gateway Arch and Old Courthouse, two iconic St. Louis landmarks.

- **Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site**, St. Louis: The site features White Haven, the home of our 18th president.
- **Ozark National Scenic Riverways**, Ozark Highlands, Van Buren, Mo.: The first national park to protect a river system.
- **Wilson's Creek National Battlefield**, Republic, Mo.: The site of the first major Civil War battle west of the Mississippi River.
- **George Washington Carver National Monument**, Diamond, Mo.: The site where young George Washington Carver grew up.
- **Harry S Truman National Historic Site**, Independence, Mo.: It includes Truman's home, the family farm and more.

You can find out more about the parks, including fun facts, and full contest rules at www.MONationalParks.com.

The superintendents present at today's announcement were: Mike Ward, Jefferson National Expansion Memorial; Tim Good, Ulysses S. Grant National Historic Site; Ted Hillmer, Wilson's Creek National Battlefield; Carol Dage, Harry S Truman National Historic Site; Larry Johnson, Ozark National Scenic Riverways; and Jim Heaney, George Washington Carver National Monument.

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